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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
OFFICE OF CURRENT INTELLIGENCE
9 October 1954

TO: Deputy Director (Intelligence)

SUBJECT: Jordanian Elections of 16 October 1954

1. Offices to be filled: 40 seats in the lower house of parliament (Chamber of Deputies, or House of Representatives); 20 deputies to be elected in East Jordan (former Transjordan) and 20 to be elected in West Jordan (Arab Palestine).
2. Parties or factions participating: The Nation Party and the National Socialist Party; both formed and licensed this year. The pro-Communist National Front Party and the neutralist Ba'ath Party were refused licenses which would enable them to participate. A large number of candidates are running without any party affiliation.
3. Outstanding personalities: Personal leadership is the dominant political factor in Jordan--not well-organized parties with defined positions on issues. Leading Jordanian political personalities hoping to gain increased support from the deputies elected to the new parliament are:

Tawfiq Abul Huda - prime minister since May 1954; able, pro-British and anti-Communist, not attached to any party.

Fawzi Mulqi - ex-premier, held office from May 1953 to May 1954; weak, somewhat neutralistic; member of Nationalist Socialist Party.

Anwar Khatib - former cabinet minister from West Jordan, anti-Western, member of National Socialist Party.

4. Present party strengths: In the past parliament--elected in August 1951 and dissolved on 22 June 1954--the political grouping of the 40 deputies was:

Nation
National Socialist
National Front (Bloc)
Ba'ath

4
12
3
2

State Dept. review completed

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Independents	14
Cabinet ministers who were deputies	$\frac{5}{40}$
Total deputies	

5. Principal issues: The several groups do not have outstanding differences on political issues. Bitterness over Israel's policies has resulted in a general attitude of "no peace with Israel" and has encouraged anti-Western sentiment. There is widespread support for strengthened relations with the other Arab states, but sharp differences exist over the possibility of union with Iraq. West Jordanians constantly attempt to gain power at the expense of the East Jordanians.
6. Principal factors influencing the outcome: The dominant factor seems to be Prime Minister Abul Huda's tightening of government control and restricting of opposition activities, apparently with the king's support. The two licensed parties seem to have lost ground, particularly since they recently authorized their candidates to run independently. The Communists, who failed to obtain a license to form a National Front Party, are still the best organized and disciplined political group in Jordan and may help elect certain opposition deputies.
7. Background: The elections result from the king's dissolution of parliament last June--at Abul Huda's request--when he could not obtain a working majority in the lower house. The 16 October date falls within the constitutional provision that elections be held during the four months following parliament's dissolution. The last elections were held in August 1951.
8. Informed opinion on outcome: The American embassy in Amman notes a trend favoring the election of deputies supporting Abul Huda, who in the last two months has increased his control over the government and apparently over the election machinery.
9. Significance for US security interests: Western, particularly British, interests are indirectly involved in the election outcome. A parliament supporting Abul Huda would result in a strong, pro-West, anti-Communist government. If the majority of the new deputies oppose Abul Huda, a new government would probably be less favorable to Western objectives. In this case, the well-organized Communists would be able to step up their exploitation of the country's political and economic difficulties and sentiment might increase to eliminate Western influence.

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Assistant Director
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